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JUN 18 2008

Docket No. LPTF03
US App. No. 10/502,269

REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 1-3, 6-7, and 9-10 were previously pending. Claims 1-3, 6-7, and 9-10 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Finn et al. (US 2006/0208066).

In response to this Office Action, Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 9, and 10 as discussed with Examiner Tammara Peyton on June 18, 2008. Accordingly, claims 3, and 6-7 have been canceled. No new matter or new issue is raised through the amendments. For the reasons discussed below, withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103 (a)

Claims 1-3, 6-7, and 9-10 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Finn et al. (US 2006/0208066).

However, Finn (US 2006/0208066) does not qualify as prior art of the present invention. The earliest reference date of Finn is November 17, 2003 (the filing date of prior provisional application 60/520,698). While the present application is a US national phase application of the international application No. PCT/CN02/00546 filed on August 7, 2002. Therefore, Finn is not prior art of the present invention.

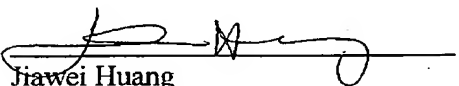
For reasons discussed above, withdrawal of the rejection and removal of Finn (US 2006/0208066) as prior art is requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the remaining claims 1-2 and 9-10 are now in condition for allowance. Allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectively submitted

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